

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 332
By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Thomas John "Jack" Blackwell of Somerville, Tennessee.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Mr. Thomas John "Jack" Blackwell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Blackwell was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Jack Blackwell served with acumen and alacrity as a Police Chief, a Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (T.B.I.) Agent, and the Mayor of Somerville, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers, colleagues, and the public alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, a native of Haywood County, Mr. Blackwell was a graduate of the Brownsville High School; and

WHEREAS, the son of the late Wilson Rice Blackwell and the late Minnie Epperson Blackwell, this courageous and honorable man served valiantly in the United States Air Force during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, he served his community with bravery and a degree of expertise in recent years as the first full-time salaried Police Chief for the City of Somerville. In earlier years, he was Chief Deputy for the Fayette County Sheriff's Department; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell served with distinction and acclaim as Mayor of Somerville from 1992-1996; and

WHEREAS, a resident of Somerville for the past fifty years, Mr. Jack Blackwell was a highly respected T.B.I. Agent who served for twenty-one years as a Special Agent in charge of

the Western District of the State. Even though he retired fourteen years ago, this exceptional agent was still renowned for his diligence and dedication on the job; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell was a member of Somerville First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as Director of the senior adults, a member of the Royal Heirs Choir, and a recognized Deacon Emeritus for life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Blackwell, was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Jack Blackwell enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Louise Sims Blackwell and was the proud father of Thomas John, Jr. and Donny Blackwell; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his sister, Faye Humphreys; three brothers, Billy Joe, Robert K., and Charles R. Blackwell; and four grandchildren, Kimberly Clary, Sara Blackwell, Krista Blackwell, and Caitlin Blackwell; and

WHEREAS, known for his quiet mannerisms and unwavering patriotism, Mr. Blackwell will be remembered as a respected law enforcement officer who assisted in training many of the area agents and officers; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jack Blackwell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Thomas John "Jack" Blackwell, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Jack Blackwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.